



Neighborhood News

News and information for the residents of Wells Branch
Vol. 30, Issue 6, Holiday 2022

It's the most wonderful time of the year!

The holidays are right around the corner! We hope you'll join us in celebrating these wonderful Wells Branch traditions. Reach out to the new folks so they feel welcome. Take time to reconnect with family, friends and neighbors. We look forward to seeing each of you at the festivities!

Light Up the Night at Luminary Fest

Friday & Saturday, December 9 & 10 • 6:00-9:00pm

Sponsored by WB MUD Parks & Rec. Dept.

Experience the glow of the holidays as our trails light up with over 1500 traditional paper luminarias around Katherine Fleischer Park. The WB MUD Luminary Festival is a tranquil and unique community tradition for the entire family! Join us Friday and Saturday evening and witness the park come alive and the trails twinkle. Hop on a caroling hayride to nearby decorated homes or enjoy a ride on the Holiday Express Train as it travels down the lighted trails for an up-close experience of the luminaries. Santa will be making a special stop and setting up shop inside the Homestead to greet children and families. Photo ops provided. While you wait to meet Santa, children are welcome to participate in a Homestead holiday activity with our Curator, Gwendolyn Johnson, or make a craft.

Be sure to stop by the Community Center to warm up! The WB MUD will have holiday elves on hand serving up delicious hot chocolate and cookies. Both kids and parents will share in the holiday spirit creating seasonal crafts and holiday cards on Friday and Saturday evenings, compliments of the Wells Branch Neighborhood Association.

Lighting of the Luminaries - The WB MUD invites you and your family to join our community in helping to light (and re-light) the luminary candles on Friday and Saturday at 3:30pm. The MUD will have lighters on hand, but please feel free to bring your own long lighter. On Saturday, we'll meet in the KF parking lot to hand out the new candles. Wagons are encouraged to help carry candles along the trail.

See you there!



A Year-end Reminder:

WBNA 2023 Membership Dues are Due

by Margaret Sufke, WBNA President

As 2022 draws to a close, please take a minute and renew your WBNA commitment. Your membership is an investment in our wonderful neighborhood. All dues collected are returned directly into the community through our traditional events and educational programs.

As a reminder, the WBNA organization is a "labor of love" and operates through a network of dedicated volunteers. Without that dedication, community support, and funds raised through dues and donations, the WBNA would cease to function. Your membership in the WBNA is essentially your annual "pledge" to support this wonderful community as membership is voluntary.

Effective January 1, 2023 annual dues will be \$25.00. If you renew or begin your 2023 membership by December 31, 2022 we will accept your dues at the current rate of \$20.00.

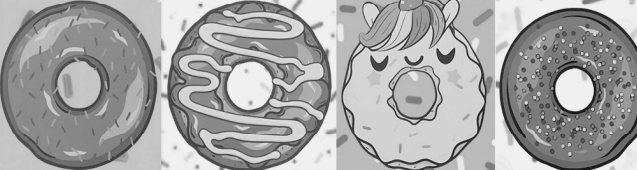


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Please JOIN or RENEW YOUR WBNA Membership TODAY!
Membership Form on Page 12 or join online at wbna.us/membership/

ATX Donut



Hours: 6 am - 1 pm / Closed on Tuesday
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WBNA Annual Meeting & Elections

February 23, 2023 | 6:30 pm
WB Community Center | 2106 Klattenhoff Drive

All Wells Branch residents (both in-district and out-of-district) are invited and encouraged to attend the 2023 general meeting. Your WBNA membership must be current in order to vote in the election or run for office. The membership form is available on page 12 or you may join online at: <http://wbna.us/membership/>. It's quick and easy! Please be sure and enter a valid email address.

The WBNA Board has seven members, each serving a two year term with assigned place numbers. Odd numbered places are elected during odd years; even numbered places in even years. This spring, we'll be selecting board members for places 1, 3, and 5 and 7. As governed by the WBNA Bylaws, roles vacated prior to the election are filled by appointees. During 2022 Pamela Woodward (place 6) decided to step down due to family commitments and an increased work schedule. Mikella Maughan, a previous board member, had moved to back into Wells Branch and offered to re-join the organization. A huge thank you to both Pamela and Mikella; your contributions are both treasured and valuable. Place 6 appointee will be ratified during the general meeting.

2022 saw the WBNA traditional calendar of events return to our normal schedule. The entire team excelled this year, working through a traditional Easter Egg Hunt, a fantastic 4th Fest auction, National Night Out, the annual Pumpkin Patch events and active participation in the WB MUD Pioneer Fest, Trunk or Treat and two Extreme Clean events. Everyone worked very hard to give back to the community.

If you are interested in serving as a board member, please send an email to info@wbna.us. We are always seeking talented people ready to build the community spirit that makes Wells Branch so very special.

WB MUD Trunk or Treat & WBNA Costume Contest

It would be frightful if we didn't thank the WB MUD and our community members for joining us at the 2022 WB Trunk-or-Treat Event.

The WBNA hosted a scary trunk photo op, while handing out ghoulish goodies! A special thank you to Daniel and Sherrie White for helping to hand out candy! Sherrie wowed the crowd with her period costume of a hand-sewn copy of Ann Boleyn's wedding dress.

A very special shout out to Pam Wachholz, her daughter Bekah and her partner "Dr. Acrula" for serving as emcees and leading the costume contest. As always the contest was a real challenge to judge because all the kids looked amazing! Please visit wbna.us for a complete list of winners.

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2022 National Night Out at KF Park | THANK YOU Wells Branch! by Margaret Sufke, President, WBNA

We had an excellent turnout at National Night Out! Thank you everyone for taking time to join us. Our tremendous sense of community is what shapes this neighborhood most. Your ongoing involvement is what makes Wells Branch such a great place to live.

Special thanks go out to Chief Nicholas Perkins and the Travis County Emergency Services District No. 2. The entire team of PFD first responders made our NNO event SO special! We appreciate the use of the Fire Safety House, Fire Engine No. 221, the EMS ambulance, and your interaction with our residents. Your service to our community is HIGHLY valued.

Thank you TCSO! We are always grateful for the Travis County Sheriff's presence at our events. Thanks to each of the long serving deputies who were able to stop by and took the time to speak with community members. We really appreciate all the educational materials and children's activities your team provided! Your constant presence in our neighborhood helps keep us safe. THANK YOU.

We would also like to thank Constable Adan Ballesteros and his team from the Travis County Precinct 2 office. Several uniformed officers came out to meet and greet the WB community members. They hosted several kiddo friendly activities and made time to listen to our neighborhood concerns.

Special shout out to Commissioner Jeff Travillion, Travis County Precinct 1, and Commissioner Brigid Shea, Travis County Precinct 2. Each county official took time out from their busy schedules to meet with community members to discuss several topics, including recent changes and improvements to the Safety Alert program.

The Friends of Wells Branch Community Library went ALL OUT! The FOL provided and served FREE frozen custard from Culver's (Thanks, Culver's). Thank you to Ralph Simon and Dave & Joan Mead. We can always count on your community service.

Thank you WBCL and thank you Lauren for hosting the Library table promoting all the recent neighborhood program updates. It was a great addition to the event.

We were fortunate to have VDRs on hand to register voters and provide detailed voting information. Thank you Susan Gezana and Jeanene McNulty!

Here's a HUGE thank you to Steve Dzenko and the BSA Venture Crew 1409. More than a dozen members worked hard to help us prep and tear down for the event. Several individuals helped out at vendor tables and supported the WBNA raffle table.

Special recognition goes out to Shirley Ross, Tina Till and the WB MUD Parks and Rec team. The MUD hosted a special booth that included an update on the Urban Forest project, current district programs with games, and prizes. MUD Staff members went above and beyond in helping ready the pavilion, trucking our supplies to the site, and packing it all up. It made for a long day for several folks but please know that we appreciate all that your team does to keep Wells Branch so special.

Last but not least, thank you to all the WBNA volunteers who make this event happen each year: Guest Pit Master Extraordinaire, Chris Carby partnered with Steve Lyons to grill up 600 tasty dogs and links. Thank you to Heather Briggs, Donna Lyons, Paul and Donna Malone, Darci Marter, Mark Sufke, and Juli Thatcher for set up and tear down. And a special call out for our emcee, Pam Wachholz, for helping to lead the prize drawing.

Winter Wastewater Averaging

Winter wastewater averaging occurs during the three-month billing period between Dec. 8, 2022 and March 8, 2023. During this time, your average monthly water use will be used as your monthly wastewater usage for the next year. **Save water now, save money all year!**

For water saving tips, visit: <http://wellsbranchmud.com/water-and-wastewater/billing/winter-averaging>



Wells Branch MUD Holiday Hours

December/January Holiday Closures:

The District Office, Recreation Center, and Parks & Facilities Yard will be closed Dec. 23-26 and Dec. 30-Jan. 2.

Willow Bend Pool will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 31-Jan. 1.

Regular hours of operation will be observed the rest of the month. Contact WB MUD Customer Service with questions at 512-251-9814 or info@wellsbranchmud.com.

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WELLS BRANCH PUMPKIN PATCH

Thank you to everyone who made the 2022 Pumpkin Patch a success!



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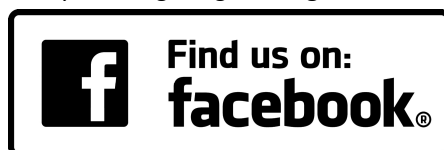
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WBNA 2023 Community Calendar Sales

Get yours TODAY! The WBNA 2023 Community Calendar is on sale NOW! There are several ways to purchase your new calendar. You can purchase in person and we would love to visit with you! Just stop by any of our **"Pop-up Sales"** locations. Watch our web site wbna.us, the WBNA Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/WBNA.WellsBranchNeighborhoodAssociation> or the WB Google Group for upcoming locations.

We are offering several ways to purchase your calendar, including a **special membership pricing option** to **SAVE \$10** when you renew (or join) the WBNA. Plan to get yours early! Please remember the calendar is produced as a limited edition and when they are gone, they are GONE!

Take a moment to review the list of winners below. We would like to thank all the contest participants. Community members generously submitted so many amazing images. **Congratulations one and all!** The biggest winner is the Wells Branch community. Thank your for your support.



Announcing the 2023 Wells Branch Community Calendar!

We would like to recognize this year's winners! Each year this wonderful local calendar just gets better and better. We would like to thank everyone who participated in the contest. We had nearly 60 entries and over 500 votes, both online and at the photo gallery in the WB Rec Center.

This year's calendar is a great mix of local area shots, fantastic local wildlife images and wonderful seasonal views. It's a true labor of love to select the final 16 images to represent the very best that Wells Branch has to offer.

The calendar will go on sale starting October 4 at the WBNA National Night Out event. You will be able to purchase your calendar online and we will also have several "pop-up" sale locations at upcoming local events.

As we close out this year's contest we would like to thank the WB MUD Parks and Recreation team for providing the gallery space. And a **very special thank you** to Debby Thompson and her excellent production skills which help the WBNA team offer this amazing community calendar.

2023 Visions of Wells Branch Community Calendar

Cover	Ty Lehman, <i>Great White Egret</i>	Mar 2023	Ty Lehman, <i>Green Heron Hunting</i>
Oct 2022	Arlie Pfeifer, <i>Bejeweled</i>	Jun 2023	Jennifer Higgins, <i>Alice's Mushrooms...</i>
Nov 2022	Mary Berry, <i>Fall colors, Mills Pond</i>	Jul 2023	Roberto White, <i>Garden Visitor</i>
Dec 2022	Roberto White, <i>Homestead Crystal Decor</i>	Aug 2023	Dave DeVore, <i>Woodie</i>
Jan 2023	Aimee Eckhardt, <i>Mediation sunrise, Mills Pond</i>	Sep 2023	Jennie Lopez, <i>Sunrise at WB Skate Park</i>
Feb 2023	Dave DeVore, <i>Vivid Red Cardinal</i>	Oct 2023	Roberto White, <i>Foggy Morning on the Trails</i>
Mar 2023	Jennifer Higgins, <i>Bluebonnet Posse</i>	Nov 2023	Sharee Darce, <i>Guardian Owl</i>
Apr 2023	Marlene Counts, <i>Pink Bunny Patch</i>	Dec 2023	Mary Barry, <i>Snowy Slope in KF Park</i>

Images from ten different photographers were showcased, with several new members entering this this year. There were five late entries that were able to be included in the final selection process. Each winning photo/photographer will receive a free calendar. The proceeds from the calendars sales will directly benefit the community through future WBNA events.

**Thank you for your support,
The WBNA Team**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

The library will close at 4pm on Wed 11/23
and reopen at 10am Sat 11/26.

We will be closed December 24, 25, 26 and January 1.

Winter Reading Program: Dec 1 through Jan 31

All ages can come to the library to get a game card.
Complete 5 tasks to earn a special prize.

**POLAR EXPRESS PARTY: Sat 12/10 @ 6 & 7pm

Join us in the annual tradition of crafts, songs, a bedtime reading of the book and a visit from Santa.

FIRST FRIDAY: Terrence Taps 12/2 @ 6:30pm

Everyone can enjoy this phenomenal, rhythmic, interactive tap dance performance by a local artist.

SPECIAL TEEN / TWEEN PROGRAM (AGE 10-18)

**Tiny Tails : Sat 12/17 @ 2pm

Cuddle cute animals at the library!!

SPECIAL KIDS PROGRAMS:

Kim Lehman Concert: Sat 11/19 @ 10:30am

Have fun learning with songs and stories!

**Young Rembrandts: Mon 11/28 & 12/19 @ 6pm

Ages 5+ can follow the step-by-step instructions to create a masterpiece in an hour.

WEEKLY KIDS PROGRAMS

No regular programs December 19-31

- Mon @ 10:30am: Baby Signs
- Mon @ 11am: Storytime
- Mon @ 4:30pm: **ATLAS CLUB (age 8-12 only)
- Tues @ 10:30am: Bilingual Storytime
- Tues @ 11am: Spanish Circle Time
- Tues @ 3:15 & 4:15pm: ** LEGO Lab (age 5+)
- Wed @ 10:30am: Circle Time
- Thu @ 10:30am & 11am: Storytime
- Thu @ 5pm: Storytime and Craft
- Fri @ 10:30am: Alphabuddies
- Sat @ 10:30am: Storytime and Craft

ADULT PROGRAMS:

Spice of the Month Club: Sat 11/12 & 12/10 @ 4pm

Each month will feature a spice that you can pick up at the library with an intro pack that includes some history, spice sample, and recipes. Give it a try and share your thoughts, tips, success (and failure) with the group.

**Nail Stamping: Sat 11/19 @ 4pm

Learn the basics and give it a try.

Traveling Tea Book Club: Thu 12/1 @ 6pm

This program is for traveling tea members to meet up, talk about books, and drink some tea together. Non-members and anyone interested are welcome to attend

**Try It! Holly Felt Wreath: Sat 12/3 @ 4pm

Make a decoration for your door, no skills required.

**Bad Art Night: Sat 12/17 @ 4pm

Create a Disaster-piece with recycled items.

Resume Workshops: Sat 11/12 & 12/10 @ 10am

Edit your resume to stand out for the job you want.

Computer Classes:

**Beginning Excel: Sat 11/19 @ 10am

**Intermediate Excel: Sat 12/17 @ 10am

Adult Wellness

- **Yoga: 12/1 @ 6:45pm
- **Meditation & Stretching: 12/8 @ 6pm

Adult Crafting Space: Drop In Hours

Sundays and Wednesdays 2pm to 5pm

Adult cardholders in good standing can drop in to use our equipment during open hours (call or check the website). We have sewing machines, engraving tools, leather stamps, cricut, sizzix, glass etching and more!

Tech Help is available in the crafting space during drop-in hours. You can get help with our digital library (hoopla and Overdrive/Libby) or tour our databases.

Craft LAB: Wed @ 6:00pm (age 18+)

- **11/30: Beeswax Candles
- **12/7: Glass Ornaments
- 12/14: Knit and Crochet

To see everything happening at the library, check out our website and event calendar at **WBLIBRARY.ORG**.

****Program registration: wblibrary.eventbrite.com**

Holiday Safety Tips

by Debby Thompson, former
WB Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

With the bustle of the holidays just around the corner, make sure you're taking every precaution possible to keep your home and family safe and secure. We usually see an increase in opportunistic crime this time of year; please remain vigilant.

Keep your blinds and drapes closed when away, even if only for a short period of time.

Keep your house well lit at night (backyard included). A motion sensor activated light is an inexpensive deterrent.

If your Christmas tree is displayed in front of a window, don't pile the presents around it. Store the gifts in another area away from view when the blinds or drapes are open.

Do NOT put the empty boxes for the new computer, TV, stereo system, etc. on the curb for the trash. Take the time to break down every box and put it inside your trashcan/recycling bin so that it is concealed, even if you have to hold it over to the next week. People start cruising our neighborhood on Sunday afternoons to see what has been put out. The less they know about what you have inside, the better.

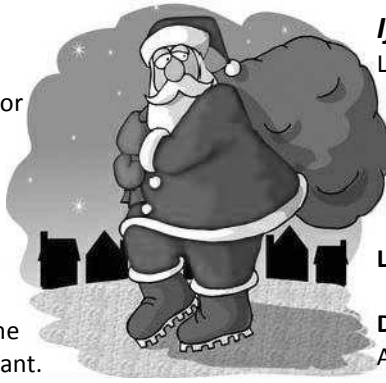
Door-to-door solicitations increase tremendously this time of year. Always look out the window or peephole before opening the door or answering a knock. Never open the door all the way, especially if you have a Christmas tree and/or presents in plain view.

Always lock your car. Never leave your car running unattended or leave your keys in the car or ignition. If you usually keep a garage door remote control in your car and don't park it in the garage each and every time you return home, hide the remote or take it inside. Thieves check visors and this gives them instant protected access to your home.

Keep your garage door closed at all times and keep the inside door from your home to the garage **LOCKED**.

Don't leave valuables in plain view, even if your car is locked. Take them in the house or put them in the trunk out of sight **BEFORE** arriving at your destination.

While shopping this holiday season, remain aware of your surroundings at all times. If unsure of your safety, ask a store attendant to have security walk you to your car. You can't be too safe. This goes for trips to the grocery store as well. When unloading your car at home after a day of shopping, lock it between trips to and from the car.



If you plan to be away:

Let a neighbor and/or block captain know you'll be out of town and when you'll return. They should have the following: your emergency contact information; contact information for anyone with access to your house (pet sitter, etc.); when they should be expected; what they look like and a description of their vehicle(s).

Let only those who *NEED* to know, know when you are going out of town.

Don't share vacation plans on social media.

Arrange to have your lawn cared for if you are going to be away.

Don't hide keys under doormats or flowerpots or in similar places.

Put your lights, stereo or TV on timers.

Keep your house well lit at night (backyard included)

Leave a car in the driveway or ask a neighbor to park in it.

Don't cancel your paper or mail deliveries; ask that your neighbor pick them up every day.

Leave a key with a friend or neighbor; ask that the house be checked at regular intervals.

Store all your valuables.

Consider asking friends or relatives to live in your home while you are away.

Ask your neighbor to put trash in your trashcan and to put it out for collection and away when they put theirs away.

File a Close Patrol Request. The filing of this form alerts patrolling officers so that they may pay close attention to one's residence. To do so: Contact the Travis County Sheriff's Office at 512-854-9721. Ask to make a Close Patrol Request. You will be asked for information on those caring for your home while you're away - make and model of their vehicles, name, description and times they should be at your home.

A comprehensive list of Safety Tips as well as numerous articles by the Travis County Sheriff Deputies are posted on our website, <http://wbna.us> under the Safety tab. There's also a wealth of information available at tcsheriff.org.

If you are not already, become a Wells Branch Neighborhood Association member. "Like" us on Facebook for community updates. The more community involvement and connectedness there is, the safer we all will be.

Join the community listserv aka 'The Google Group' by sending your name, physical address and email to wbneighbors@gmail.com or send a request to join via googlegroups.com.

Most of all, be aware of your surroundings and look out for your neighbors. If you see or hear something suspicious, call 911. The Sheriff's Department would much rather answer a false alarm than deal with a tragedy later.

We live in a **GREAT** community **AND** a **SECURE** neighborhood. Let's all do our part to keep it that way.
Here's to a safe and happy holiday season!



Give the Gift of Holiday Fire Safety courtesy of ESD2/Pflugerville Fire

As you prepare to celebrate the upcoming holidays, Travis County Emergency Services District #2 (the Pflugerville Fire Department) encourages everyone in Wells Branch to put safety at the top of the gift list! Thanksgiving is the #1 day of the year for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve. Here's what you can do to help keep your home a place of joy this holiday season:

Use a Timer—It's easy to forget you have the stove or oven on, especially once you sit down to enjoy your feast. Always use a timer to remind you to turn things off.

Stay with the Stove—Never leave your house unattended when you have food cooking in the oven – not even a ham or turkey! And always stay in the kitchen whenever you are cooking on the stovetop. Keep the handles of your pots and pans turned back away from the edge of the stove so they aren't knocked or pulled down. Even when the stove is off but especially when it's on, keep the area around the stove clear of flammable items such as hot pads, paper towels, cookbooks, decorations, and notes/cards.

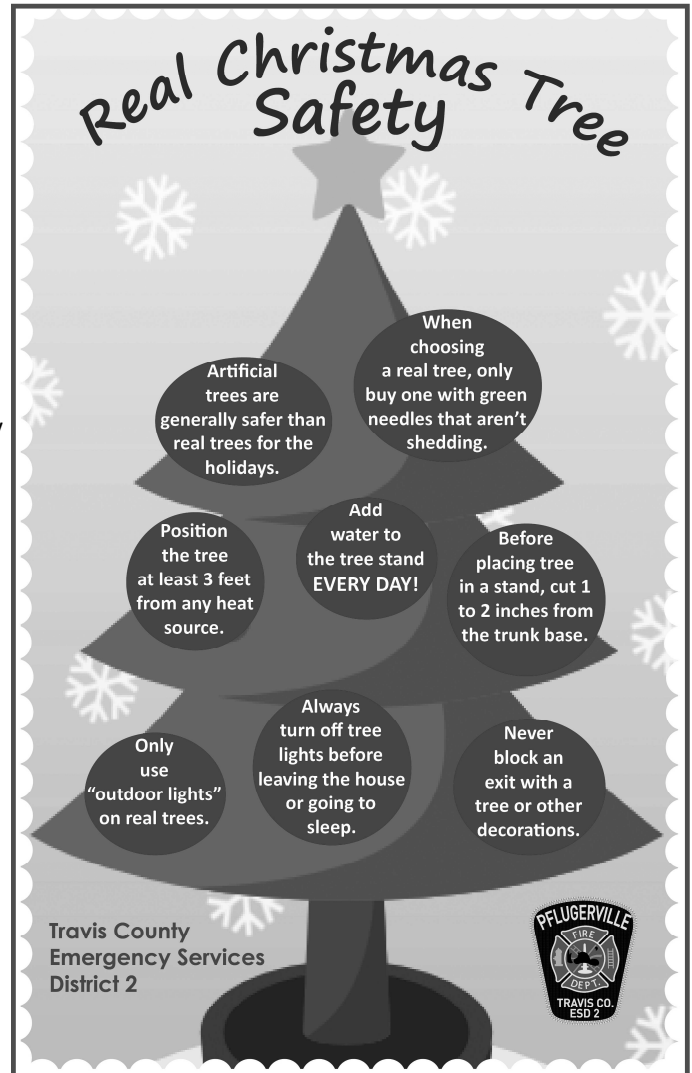
Keep Kids Back—Always keep children at least 3 feet away from a hot stovetop. Move regular and electric knives well out of their reach. Don't let them too close to hot dishes or liquids such as gravy and coffee.

Caution with Cords—Be sure cords from electric knives, coffee makers, plate warmers, and mixers are not dangling off of the counter. Adults may accidentally snag these dangerous items, and children may be tempted to pull them down.

Avoid Turkey Fryers—The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) warns that turkey fryers using cooking oil are not safe even for well-informed and careful home cooks. Turkey fryers use a lot of cooking oil at high temperatures, and there's a significant danger that hot oil will be released during cooking. Additionally, the burners that heat the oil can ignite spilled oil.

Light it Right—Some holiday lights are only safe for indoor or outdoor use, but NOT both. When hanging holiday lights, use clips – not nails – to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged. If you need to use a ladder, work with a partner on the ground. Replace any string of lights that has worn or broken cords or any loose bulb connections. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for the maximum number of light strands to connect.

Take Care with Candles—Keep lit candles away from centerpieces, decorations, curtains, and other things that can burn. Locate them away from windows and doors so your emergency exits are not blocked if objects catch fire. Always blow out candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Try using battery-operated candles instead!



Advertising & Article Submission

Do you have a business or service you would like to advertise? Have an article of interest to other WB residents? If the answer to either of these questions is yes, please visit wbna.us/newsletters for advertising rates or contact Donna Malone at info@wbna.us for more information.

The WBNA does not accept political advertising.

All article submissions are subject to editing.

All ads must be pre-paid.

NOW HIRING!

The Wells Branch MUD is currently hiring for the positions of

- Lifeguard*
- Parks Employee

*Daytime / Weekday availability preferred.

For more information, please visit:

<http://wellsbranchmud.com/services/human-resources>



Ways to Give Back this Holiday Season

Meals on Wheels



It is a gift to serve, and a rare chance to directly help individuals in your community one meal at a time. The holiday season is when Meals on Wheels has their greatest need, since many of their regular volunteers go out of town on vacation.

The training video is short and after that, you can pick up meals for delivery at a convenient location. When a substitute driver is needed, Meals on Wheels will contact you in the morning and ask if you're available that day. If you can deliver, they'll give you the route details. If you're not available, just let them know! It's that simple!

Visit <https://www.mealsonwheelscentraltexas.org/> or call 512-476-MEAL(6325) or for more information.

Drive a Senior/Senior Access



Thinking about helping others? Have a little extra time this holiday season? Want a flexible volunteer schedule? **We need YOU!** You can choose when, where, and how you volunteer. Drive a Senior (DaS) is a community non-profit that provides free transportation to seniors who no longer drive. We are looking for volunteer drivers and people who can help with client phone calls/scheduling. Contact us and help a neighbor remain independent. Visit driveasenior.org or email volunteer@senioraccessstx.org (WB/RR/P'ville areas) or call 512-310-1060 to find out how you can help!

Travis County Brown Santa



Help spread the joy of Christmas by donating or volunteering with Brown Santa. Visit their website for more information and donation suggestions by age at <https://www.brownsanta.org/>. You can also call 512-24-SANTA (512-247-2682), or email tcbrownsanta1@brownsanta.org to volunteer or donate.

Donation barrels are available at the Wells Branch Rec. Center on Shoreline through December 13. Donation bins will also be available at the Community Center & Homestead for Luminary Fest, December 9 & 10. Unopened non-perishable foods and new toys are appreciated!

Giving Tree at St. Andrew's

St. Andrew's partners with the Workers Defense Project to provide holiday gifts to children who would receive nothing if not for this program. The congregation chooses a tag with a child's name from the Giving Tree in the church, shops and wraps the gift, returns it to the church, then volunteers deliver the gifts to the families right before Christmas ... the true spirit of giving. For information or to volunteer, contact Lisa Ward at givingtree@runward.com.

Volunteers Needed for St. Andrew's Church's Cold Weather Shelter

As winter approaches there is a need for providing shelter to those in need on evenings when a Cold Weather Shelter (CWS) is declared. On such evenings St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church opens its doors to provide hot meals, showers and shelter to those in need of such services. A wide range of volunteers are needed to meet those needs:

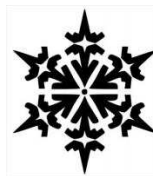
- Provide a meal for 8-12 people, either cooked at home and brought to the church or cooked and prepared at the church. Multiple people can provide parts of the meal: entrée, salad, or dessert.
- Servers to serve the food and clean up the kitchen afterwards
- Volunteers to sleep over night at the church
- Volunteers to clean up the church the next morning

If you'd like to volunteer to help with the CWS at St. Andrew's or wish to get more information, please contact Mary Graf at: Mary_Graf@att.net. Please put "CWS" in the subject line and state the area(s) in which you are interested.

Volunteers & Donations Needed for St. Andrew's Food Pantry

St. Andrew's offers a Food Pantry the 2nd & 4th Saturday of every month (but NOT the 4th Saturdays in November & December) from 9:00am to Noon. They partner with the Central Texas Food Bank (CTFB) and Austin Diaper Bank and serve a variety of clients from the surrounding area who face food insecurity. A light snack is served while clients wait their turn to shop with their guide for packaged food, fresh fruit & vegetables, milk, bread, eggs, seasonal offerings from the St. Andrew's garden, dry pet food, and toiletries, in addition to child & adult diapers. Volunteers are needed for a variety of jobs at each Food Pantry on Saturday morning as well as picking up food from CTFB and preparing for the Food Pantry on Fridays and picking up diapers from Austin Diaper Bank. Anyone interested in volunteering, should contact Laura at: landsmanlaura@gmail.com

Donations of canned and dry goods to the St. A's food pantry are always welcome. Proteins such as canned tuna and peanut butter and boxed milk (no refrigeration needed) are in high demand as are soups, vegetables, rice and beans. Donations may be deposited in the box outside the Wells Branch Library or can be dropped off at St. Andrew's Monday—Friday from 9am to 4pm.



Happy Holidays!

Upcoming Events!

WB MUD Bulk Trash Days

Saturday, December 10 & Saturday, January 14

8am-12pm • 13905 Thermal

For more info, visit: <http://wellsbranchmud.com/services/bulk-other-items>

Curbside Community Compost and Holiday Tree Collection

December/January: There will be no Curbside Community Compost pickup the week of December 26. Regular weekly collection will resume on Monday, January 2.

Reminder: Natural holiday trees may be placed curbside for pickup during the regular weekly collection. **Please REMOVE ALL LIGHTS and DECORATIONS.**

Holiday Gift Wrapping Workshop

Hosted by the WB MUD Rec. Dept.

Monday, December 12 • 6:30-8:00pm

WB Rec. Center • 3000 Shoreline Drive

Learn up to 5 different gift wrapping strategies – from the very basics to advanced! We'll start by breaking down each step and walking you through the process; from how to measure your paper to putting on the bow! You'll learn two different ways to make bows for your presents and multiple ways to add low cost, simple garnishes by reusing scrap paper or other basic items in your home to really bring in the WOW factor! You'll leave with a few gifts wrapped and ready for the holidays as well as step-by-step instructions.

We ask that workshop participants bring up to 6 different presents to wrap. We will supply the wrapping paper, tape, and scissors. Additional boxes will be available for participants to practice on. Participants may also bring their own wrapping paper if desired.

This event is free and limited to the first 20 participants. Registration for this workshop will close on December 11. Participants age 15 and under should have an adult for supervision and assistance. Register here: <http://wellsbranchmud.com/parks-a-recreation/events>

WB MUD Bingo Night

Wednesday, December 14 • 6:00-8:30pm

WB Rec Center • 3000 Shoreline Drive

Get your daubers ready — you're in for a real treat! Wells Branch Recreation Department is hosting Bingo Nights this winter. Grab your bingo buddy and lucky charm and join us at the Recreation Center Gym every second Wednesday of the month from November through February. The lucky winners will have a selection of gift cards to choose from. Light refreshments will be available at no cost. Bingo will begin at 6:30 pm and prizes will wrap up around 8:30pm.

The Archive Theater Presents:

A Sherlock Holmes Christmas

Thursday, December 15 • 8:00pm

WB Community Center • 2106 Klattenhoff Drive

Bring a little Victorian Christmas joy to your holidays with The Archive Theater's free Production of *A Sherlock Holmes Christmas* at the Community Center.

Sherlock Holmes and his faithful friend Dr. Watson take on their most festive case yet as they try to unravel the mystery of a flawless blue diamond hidden in a Christmas goose. Moving from the wealthy drawing rooms of the 1890s aristocrats to the seedy side of Victorian London, our relentless detectives follow the clues to a fantastic holiday show. With live classical music, carol singing, holiday cheer, and a bit of wassail, this Christmas mystery will find its way straight into your heart. The game's afoot!

Registration is not required but encouraged, as seats are limited. Doors open at 7:15pm. You can reserve your seats here: <https://the-archive-theater-company.square.site/>

Save the Date: WB Cultural Diversity Fair

Hosted by WB MUD Rec. Dept.

Saturday, February 25 | 1:00-4:00pm

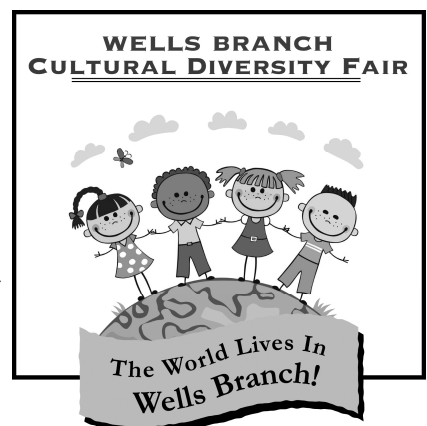
WB Rec Center | 3000 Shoreline Drive

Get ready to celebrate the amazing cultural diversity we have right here in Wells Branch. It's never too early to start making plans. The 2023 Cultural Diversity Fair marks the fifth anniversary of this bi-annual event. The last "CDF" was held in February 2020, just before the pandemic shutdown.

We had over 20 countries represented, sharing their culture from around the world through food, music, dance and activities. Each registered country may reserve a booth space (a table and 2 chairs) and is encouraged to host a wide range of cultural topics from their nation.

We will also be reaching out to local area groups and schools for international entertainment such as dance troops, ethnic music and regional performing arts. Please start making plans to participate.

Have questions? Want to volunteer to host a country? Please contact Margaret Sufke at info@wbna.us or call 512-341-0428.





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Let the Season Shine!

WBNA Home Lighting Contest

Entry deadline: December 14 | Judging: December 17-18

Get ready to SPARKLE! The WBNA is sponsoring the 2022 Wells Branch Holiday Lighting Contest. We will host a Holiday Lights Trail Map which includes an online site to enter nominations. Once entered, the site will be "pinned" on the map. Please nominate as many addresses as you'd like at <https://bit.ly/WBNAholidaylights> to be added to our map. The map will be updated as nominations arrive, it can be viewed and shared here: <https://bit.ly/WBNAholidaylightsmap>

One grand prize will be awarded for each category. The winners will have an "award sign" delivered to their home and displayed in their yard through the holidays.

Categories will be labeled on the map as well, they include:

**Best Use of Lights • Most Traditional • Most Elaborate •
Most Energy Efficient • Most Visible from Outer Space •
Most Original • Most Patriotic • Most Whimsical**

Important Dates:

Dec. 14: Displays complete, entries submitted

Dec. 16: Lights on 6:00 – 9:00 pm for early previews

Dec. 17-18: Drive by Judging and "online voting" from the community – "Lights On"

Dec. 19: Winners announced, signs installed, and prizes awarded



Nomination Form



Holiday Lights Map

Wells Branch Photo Club Update

WBPC "Reboot" Meeting • Jan 10 • 6:30 pm

WB Rec Center • 3000 Shoreline Drive • Room 100-101

After a year long hiatus, the WB Photo Club is pressing the "restart" option. Following the pandemic, resources were stretched thin, and the club was unable to host regular meetings. Recently there has been renewed interest in the group so we are "rebooting" in January of 2023. New members are welcome!

Traditionally the group meets the second Tuesday of each month. Watch for updates via the WB Google Group, WBNA Facebook Page, WB Photo Club Facebook Page, and wbna.us. Questions? Contact Margaret at mmsufke@gmail.com.

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Happy Holidays from the WBNA!

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Check: _____ Here is my check (made out to WBNA) for \$25 annual dues for 2023.

I am: _____ renewing my membership _____ a new member

Name(s) _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

I/we want to help with: _____ Newsletter Delivery _____ Crime Watch _____ July 4th
 _____ Easter Egg Hunt _____ Nat'l Night Out _____ Luminary Fest

MAIL TO: WBNA Membership, 2104 Klattenhoff, Austin, TX. 78728

ONLY \$20
if paid by
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